

RECEIVED AUG - 9 2004

413 Grenoble Road
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93110
August 4, 2004

NE NPR-A Amendment Planning Team
Bureau of Land Management (930)
222 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

196950

Dear staff;

1 I am writing in regards to the proposed plans to reduce the size of the Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area from 857,859 acres to 213,000 acres, and to express my opposition to these plans.

002
Special
Designation

Such a course of action has the potential to cause devastating impacts in multiple ways to this region and more far-flung locales. Teshekpuk Lake is ecologically unique and one of the most critical wildlife habitats in the Arctic. It provides habitat for molting geese from three nations, nesting birds from six continents, and caribou on which several North Slope communities depend for subsistence. If this wetland wilderness is degraded by industrial scale oil development, the likely impacts on wildlife will be felt in Alaska from Barrow to Hoover Bay and Izembeck Lagoon, in the Lower 48 states, and in Mexico, Canada and Siberia.

Negative impacts would include the disruption of the molting cycle for brant, greater white fronted geese, along with Canadian and snow geese. Caribou who seek insect relief in the area would likely be disturbed leading to higher herd mortality levels and resulting decreases in take for subsistence hunters in nearby native communities. Lastly, waste products from human activities in oil development areas attract predators that will prey on currently undisturbed habitats and species in the area.

4 I strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management to retain the Teshekpuk Lake surface Protection Area as established in the 1998 record of Decision, and not reduce the size as proposed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Arnie Schildhaus

003
Wild
Life